

# Phidias



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## Period

Around 490 BC, probably in Athens, Greece. Died around 430 BC.



## Family

Nothing certain is known about his marriage or children.



## Art movement

Classical Greek art



## Materials

Marble, bronze, gold, ivory



## Known for

Monumental statues of gods and idealized human figures.



## Known work

Statue of Zeus at Olympia



## Artistic significance

Phidias is considered one of the most important sculptors of ancient Greece. His works shaped the ideal of beauty, harmony, and divine dignity.




## Good to know

The statue of Zeus at Olympia was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

# Meister der Ada Gruppe



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## Period

Active around 780 to 820 in the circle of Charlemagne's court.



## Family

His name, origin, and family are not known.



## Art movement

Carolingian book illumination, Early Middle Ages



## Materials

Parchment, ink, opaque colors, gold, book illumination



## Known for

Magnificent manuscripts with portraits of the Evangelists and rich decoration.



## Known work

Ada Gospels



## Artistic significance

The Ada Group stands for the revival of ancient forms in Carolingian art. It shows how important books, monasteries, and court art were in the Early Middle Ages.



## Good to know

At that time, many artists were not named. That is why we often speak of workshops or groups of masters.

# Gislebertus



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## Period

Active in the 12th century in France.



## Family

Nothing certain is known about his marriage or children.



## Art movement

Romanesque



## Materials

Stone, relief, architectural sculpture.



## Known for

Expressive figures on church portals



## Known work

Tympanum of the Last Judgment at Autun Cathedral



## Artistic significance

Gislebertus made biblical stories visible in stone. His figures are not naturalistic, but they are very powerful, dynamic, and narrative.




## Good to know

His name is especially interesting because medieval artists often remained anonymous.

# Jan van Eyck



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## Period

Around 1390, probably in Maaseik, present day Belgium. Died on 9 July 1441 in Bruges, present day Belgium.



## Family

Married to Margareta van Eyck. He had at least one child.



## Art movement

Late Gothic, Early Netherlandish painting



## Materials

Oil on wood panel



## Known for

Precise details, luminous colors, realistic surfaces, and masterful oil painting.



## Known work

Ghent Altarpiece



## Artistic significance

Jan van Eyck brought oil painting to exceptional technical perfection. His works show light, fabrics, faces, and objects with impressive accuracy.



## Good to know

In his paintings, tiny details, reflections, and symbols can often be discovered.

# Leonardo da Vinci



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## Period

15 April 1452 in Vinci, Italy. Died on 2 May 1519 in Amboise, France.



## Family

Not married. No children are reliably documented.



## Art movement

Renaissance



## Materials

Oil, tempera, drawing, sketchbooks, nature studies



## Known for

Painting, anatomy, inventions, observation of nature, and scientific thinking.



## Known work

Mona Lisa



## Artistic significance

Leonardo da Vinci embodies the ideal of the versatile Renaissance artist. He combined art, science, technology, anatomy, and close observation.



## Good to know

Many of his inventions remained designs in sketchbooks, but they show his enormous spirit of research.

# Caravaggio



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## Period

29 September 1571 in Milan, Italy. Died on 18 July 1610 in Porto Ercole, Italy.



## Family

Not married. No children are reliably documented.



## Art movement

Baroque



## Materials

Oil on canvas



## Known for

Dramatic light and shadow, realistic figures, and strong visual tension.



## Known work

The Calling of Saint Matthew



## Artistic significance

Caravaggio decisively changed Baroque painting. He showed religious scenes in a particularly direct, dark, dramatic, and lifelike way.



## Good to know

He often used ordinary people as models for saints. At the time, this seemed new and partly provocative.

# Antoine Watteau



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## Period

10 October 1684 in Valenciennes, France. Died on 18 July 1721 in Nogent sur Marne, France.



## Family

Not married. No children are known.



## Art movement

Rococo



## Materials

Oil on canvas, drawing, chalk



## Known for

Elegant society scenes, theater figures, music, love, and subtle moods.



## Known work

The Embarkation for Cythera



## Artistic significance

Watteau shaped the elegant and refined painting of the Rococo. His pictures appear light and graceful, but often also contain melancholy and thoughtfulness.




## Good to know

His figures often seem to be celebrating or dreaming, yet the mood often remains mysterious.

# Jacques Louis David



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## Period

30 August 1748 in Paris, France. Died on 29 December 1825 in Brussels, Belgium.



## Family

Married to Marguerite Charlotte Pécoul. He had several children.



## Art movement

Neoclassicism



## Materials

Oil on canvas, drawing



## Known for

Strict compositions, clear lines, ancient models, and political history paintings.



## Known work

The Oath of the Horatii



## Artistic significance

Jacques Louis David was the most important painter of French Neoclassicism. His art combines ancient ideals with political meaning and shows duty, courage, and sacrifice.



## Good to know

David was also politically active. His paintings clearly show how closely art and politics were connected during the French Revolution.

# Caspar David Friedrich



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## Period

5 September 1774 in Greifswald, Germany. Died on 7 May 1840 in Dresden, Germany.



## Family

Married to Caroline Bommer. He had three children.



## Art movement

Romanticism



## Materials

Oil on canvas, drawing, sepia



## Known for

Lonely landscapes, figures seen from behind, fog, ruins, the sea, and moods of nature.



## Known work

Wanderer above the Sea of Fog



## Artistic significance

Friedrich turned landscapes into images of inner feeling. In his work, nature often stands for longing, faith, solitude, and reflection.



## Good to know

His figures seen from behind invite the viewer to mentally enter the picture.

# Gustave Courbet



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## Period

10 June 1819 in Ornans, France. Died on 31 December 1877 in La Tour de Peilz, Switzerland.



## Family

Not married. One daughter is known.



## Art movement

Realism



## Materials

Oil on canvas



## Known for

Everyday scenes, workers, landscapes, and unidealized reality.



## Known work

A Burial at Ornans



## Artistic significance

Courbet depicted ordinary people and real life situations on a large scale. In doing so, he challenged the idea that only ancient, religious, or historical subjects could be great art.



## Good to know

He wanted to paint what he could see himself. This fits especially well with the basic idea of Realism.

# Claude Monet



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## Period

14 November 1840 in Paris, France. Died on 5 December 1926 in Giverny, France.



## Family

Married twice, first to Camille Doncieux, later to Alice Hoschedé. He had two sons.



## Art movement

Impressionism



## Materials

Oil on canvas, open air painting



## Known for

Light, color, water, gardens, water lilies, and fleeting impressions of nature.



## Known work

Impression, Sunrise



## Artistic significance

Monet indirectly gave Impressionism its name. He showed how light, color, and atmosphere change depending on the time of day and the weather.



## Good to know

His famous water lily paintings were created over many years in his garden in Giverny.

# Ernst Ludwig Kirchner



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## Period

6 May 1880 in Aschaffenburg, Germany. Died on 15 June 1938 in Davos, Switzerland.



## Family

Not married. No children are reliably documented.



## Art movement

Expressionism



## Materials

Oil on canvas, woodcut, drawing, printmaking



## Known for

Strong colors, angular forms, city scenes, and expressive figures.



## Known work

Street Scene, Berlin



## Artistic significance

Kirchner was a co founder of the artist group Brücke. He shaped German Expressionism with intense colors, sharp lines, and a nervous visual effect.



## Good to know

His paintings show not only what can be seen, but also how modern city life, restlessness, and inner tension feel.

# Pablo Picasso



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## Period

25 October 1881 in Málaga, Spain. Died on 8 April 1973 in Mougins, France.



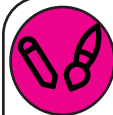
## Family

Married twice and father of four children.



## Art movement

Cubism, Modern art



## Materials

Oil, drawing, collage, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking



## Known for

Fragmented forms, multiple viewpoints, constant changes of style, and enormous productivity.



## Known work

Guernica



## Artistic significance

Picasso was one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. Together with Georges Braque, he developed Cubism and fundamentally changed modern art.



## Good to know

Picasso never stayed with one style for long. He constantly experimented with new techniques, forms, and modes of expression.

# Salvador Dalí



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## Period

11 May 1904 in Figueres, Spain. Died on 23 January 1989 in Figueres, Spain.



## Family

Married to Gala Dalí. No children are known.



## Art movement

Surrealism



## Materials

Oil on canvas, drawing, film, object art, stage design



## Known for

Dreamlike worlds, melting clocks, precise painting technique, and bizarre motifs.



## Known work

The Persistence of Memory



## Artistic significance

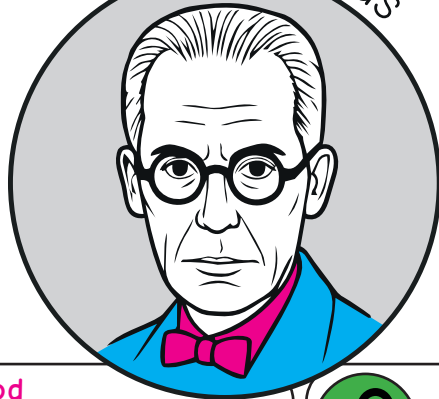
Dalí made the unconscious, dreams, and absurd image combinations especially popular. His paintings are technically precise, but appear mysterious and unreal.



## Good to know

Dalí strongly staged himself in public. His striking personality almost became part of his artwork.

# Walter Gropius



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## Period

18 May 1883 in Berlin, Germany.  
Died on 5 July 1969 in Boston, USA.



## Family

Married several times. One daughter, Manon Gropius, is especially well known.



## Art movement

Bauhaus, functional modernism, architecture



## Materials

Architecture, glass, steel, concrete, design, design concepts.



## Known for

Founding the Bauhaus and modern architecture



## Known work

Bauhaus Building Dessau



## Artistic significance

Gropius connected art, craft, design, and architecture into a new educational model. His ideas shaped modern building and design worldwide.



## Good to know

The Bauhaus wanted to create design for modern life: clear, functional, and at the same time aesthetic.

# Andy Warhol



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## Period

6 August 1928 in Pittsburgh, USA.  
Died on 22 February 1987 in New York City, USA.



## Family

Not married. No children.



## Art movement

Pop Art, modern and contemporary art



## Materials

Screen printing, painting, photography, film, advertising, mass media



## Known for

Images of stars, consumer products, and repetition as an artistic principle.



## Known work

Marilyn Diptych



## Artistic significance

Warhol turned everyday images, advertising, branded products, and celebrities into art. He showed how strongly consumer culture and mass media shape our visual world.



## Good to know

His Factory was a studio, meeting place, and production site at the same time. Art was created there almost like in a modern media workshop.